

Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of
Jerusalem - OSMTH

United Nations
Delegate Handbook



For use by OSMTH Designated Representatives
Attending United Nations events

TO: OSMTH United Nations Delegates
RE: Conduct at United Nations Events

Dear United Nations Delegate,

Thank you for your service to the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, (OSMTH). We welcome your volunteer participation in our UN activities.

Your participation in our United Nations activities makes OSMTH a very special organization in the world. Your expertise and accomplishments raise us to a higher level of UN participation. We hope the guidelines in this publication will aid you as you experience the United Nations in action.

OSMTH is an “NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.” We are proud of this designation and we work constantly to maintain our reputation and involvement in the United Nations.

OSMTH has a core group of 20 Designated Delegates assigned to UN locations in New York, USA, Geneva, Switzerland, Vienna, Austria and Regional Commissions in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Santiago, Chile, Beirut, Lebanon and Bangkok, Thailand. To this every experienced group we regularly add delegates to special UN activities. When you voluntarily represent OSMTH you are in very good company. We trust you to uphold the finest traditions of our Organization and we know this trust is well placed. Thank you again for your help.

Chev. Randal Tietz
OSMTH Deputy Grand Secretary for UN Operations
May, 2009

“NON NOBIS, DOMINE, NON NOBIS SED NOMINI TUO DA GLORIAM”
NOT UNTO US, O LORD, NOT UNTO US, BUT UNTO THY NAME GIVE GLORY

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(Content approved by the Grand Magisterial Consul – April 25 2009 – Sophia Bulgaria)

OSMTH is an “NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.” We are listed as the “Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (OSMTH).” Only this name and acronym may be used, and they should always be used together. NO other designation (such as “SMOTJ” or “Knights Templar”) is to be used.

Consultative Status is very difficult to attain and retain. This status demands a high level of behavior as an organization and as individuals. All OSMTH Designated Representatives appointed annually and delegates appointed for one meeting must maintain a high standard of conduct consistent with our goals.

We are a Christian chivalric organization with these goals:

- 1. *Protect Christians at Risk***
- 2. *Help build bridges between the Eastern and Western Churches***
- 3. *Foster dialogue between the great religions of the Sons of Abraham: Judaism, Islam; and Christianity.***
- 4. *Foster communication and understanding among all peoples of faith throughout the world.***

In addition, also advocate for the following:

- 1. *Human Rights, especially the status of women***
- 2. *Anti slavery and anti trafficking***
- 3. *Clean and safe water at an affordable price for all***
- 4. *Peace***
- 5.**

We also support the United Nations Millenium Goals

Reaching our goals during our UN activities takes the cooperation of all Designated Representatives.

OSMTH must file a Quadrennial Report of activities in order to retain our Consultative Status. We must be actively involved in the United Nations and all of our activities must be consistent with UN norms. Failure to do so can create great difficulties for us during the review process.

OSMTH voluntarily adopted standards of behavior for our organization and for our delegates:

A Voluntary Code of Conduct for NGOs in Consultative Status with ECOSOC

- 1. *Independence from Governmental Control***
- 2. *Answerability of Individual Representatives to their Organizations***
- 3. *Credibility of Organizations and their Representatives***
- 4. *Co-operative Relationships with other NGOs***

(See:” *The Responsibilities of Representation,*” below)

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS AN OSMTH U. N. DELEGATE

Delegates to UN sponsored or coordinated events are identified as “OSMTH” delegates. To the other delegates you “are the Templars.” Other delegates may have never met another OSMTH member. They may not meet another member for years, if ever. What you say or do in their presence may be the only thing they ever know about the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem. You are a special person to us.

When we speak at a meeting, submit a position paper, or sign another organization’s position paper we will be viewed as “OSMTH.” Any action or statement by a Designated Delegate will be presumed by other attendees as an official act or statement of OSMTH. The United Nations has 191 member states and thousands of employees and official Mission members, to them, you are OSMTH.

As an ecumenical Christian organization we have a wonderful set of guidelines to inform our behavior.

As an organization we have a duty to protect Christians at risk. As OSMTH delegates to a UN event we participate in many discussions and presentations. We must consider carefully what we say or do.

“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”. This idea of reciprocity is an essential theory of the current concept of human rights. This thought will serve us well in our interactions with the UN.

In UN meetings we encounter people of many cultures and beliefs. For a short time these are your neighbors. “Love thy neighbor as yourself”.

OSMTH has committed to building bridges with other faiths. We will do this with trust. Our good words and actions will be the foundation of these bridges. Thoughtless words can wound as deeply as any sword, but wisely spoken words can heal. Our words can build bridges.

Please bear in mind, at UN activities, you are OSMTH. What you say or do will be seen, heard and remembered. You are a citizen diplomat for OSMTH. Diplomatic behavior is required.

When faced with a question about OSMTH policy, if you are not sure ask before you act.

BEFORE A U.N. SESSION

1. Delegates shall prepare in advance of the meeting. Delegates should read all available information about the purpose of the meeting and the intended outcomes.
2. The OSMTH coordinator will make contact information available to the delegates. Delegates should contact each other and the "Head of Delegation" well before the session so as to make the best use of their time at the meeting.
3. Delegates should commit, in advance, to sessions in which they wish to participate. Priority should be given to sessions where participants may have some input.
4. If OSMTH will make a written or an oral statement during the meeting, this must be prepared well in advance of the meeting.
 - a. Proposed statement shall be considered within OSMTH, discussed and approved.
 - b. After discussion and approval, it may be circulated other NGO's of our choice, for endorsement, and visibility
 - c. Statements must comply with UN date limits and protocol for submission. An OSMTH representative should present the statement when called during the meeting.
 - d. All statements must be submitted for approval to the Grand Commander OSMTH before they are released.

DURING THE SESSION

1. The Delegation is to meet the day before the session starts if possible.
2. The Delegation should meet each morning to coordinate their daily activities.
3. At the end of each day a daily Delegation debriefing is highly recommended.
4. If any "hot topic" arises and a Delegation action is advisable the Head of Delegation or senior OSMTH representative will report to, and seek advice from, OSMTH leadership. Telephone or email contact is the recommended way to minimize the consultation time before any action.

AFTER THE SESSION

An after action report is required. This report should list the names of the delegates present, the sessions attended, the actions taken (if any), the contacts made with other NGO's, as well as UN officials and /or National representatives, follow ups needed, and any recommendations for future action.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Submitting or endorsing a statement leaves concrete traces of our involvement in UN activities and if carefully considered and well written, can greatly help us in the future. Final approval authority for any statement relies in the Grand Commander.

Organizing a panel during a UN session is always a highly regarded contribution. It shows OSMTH is actively involved in the UN process. Panels are not costly to do but this is best done by LOCAL members who participate in UN activities

Participation on a regular basis by some of our delegates in NGO working groups such as "human rights education and learning" or others should be highly recommended. This participation gives us "knowledge", visibility, opens doors to organize panels and participate at a higher level, and to benefit from some material support by those NGOs who have permanent paid staff on location.

Remember that we can make a difference, sometimes by stating some simple ideas. If we prepare for the meetings in advance we can make that difference during NGO meetings.

The Responsibilities of Representation

A Voluntary Code of Conduct for NGOs in Consultative Status with ECOSOC

Principles for Representation by NGOs

- 1. Independence from Governmental Control**
- 2. Answerability of Individual Representatives to their Organizations**
- 3. Credibility of Organizations and their Representatives**
- 4. Co-operative Relationships with other NGOs**

Responsibilities for Organizations and their Representatives

1. The Responsibility to be Independent

- a)* By the very definition of being a non-governmental organization, an NGO cannot accept total control of policy, funding or staffing by any government however well-disposed such a government may be to supporting the principles and concerns of the NGO.
- b)* The claim to be independent does not imply automatic or constant opposition to governmental policies nor defiance of just laws or reasonable regulations, but there must be room for critical and dissenting voices.
- c)* The conditions for acceptance of funding or staffing from any government should not contradict or undermine the vocation and purposes of the NGO.
- d)* Nor should any organizations claim the status of NGO if any government is denying them true independence, including freedom of expression for their policies and practices.

2. The Responsibility to be Representative

- a)* The nomination of an individual or individuals to represent an organization in consultative relationships with ECOSOC implies the choice of a person who will reflect the policies of the organization.
- b)* While an individual cannot suppress all personal priorities or styles of expression, these should have the approval of the organization.
- c)* If possible there should be reflection in the chosen representatives of organizations' inclusive nature (e.g. related to nationality, race, gender, age, etc.).
- d)* It should be clear whether someone is representing an organization with a diverse membership across many nationalities and levels of society or whether an international or widely ramifying concern is being addressed from the perspective of a particular, national or restricted perspective.
- e)* Representation of particular national, professional, cultural or gender perspectives can be entirely justifiable but should not claim on the basis of a "global" or "international" title to be representing constituencies that have not been included or consulted.

3. The Responsibility to be Truthful

- a)* While editorial policies and documents or speeches advocating a particular concern may sometimes level complaints or accusations against governments, agencies, associations or other groups and individuals in society there should never be tendentiousness or stereotyping.

- b)* There should be scrupulous attention to accuracy; sources should be revealed unless legitimate confidentiality would be betrayed or unless groups or individuals would be put at risk.
- c)* Generalizations and blanket condemnations (or exonerations) should be avoided as well as sweeping moral judgments which neglect the complexity of issues related to peace and justice; for example, account should be taken of dimensions of community and individual responsibility, and of contexts of global and local relevance.
- d)* In particular, an individual representative of an NGO must be scrupulously truthful and fair as a spokesperson, apologist or antagonist for or against any party and should not allow self-interests to violate the interests and security of others.

4. The Responsibility to be Co-operative and Self-critical

- a)* Given the increasingly large number of both international and national NGOs, it is a question of responsible management of time in meetings, of the bulk of written materials, and of space in both computer and human memories that NGOs should measure their oral and written contributions for relevance, timeliness and originality.
- b)* Where appropriate, NGOs can make common cause with other NGOs in joint programmes and joint statements; there should be no immodest and self-serving competition or in-fighting between NGOs.
- c)* Organizations and their representatives should study and observe all rules and regulations related to their UN accreditation and to their participation in UN meetings.



OSMTH United Nations Activity Report

Exact name (and/or number) of United Nations event:

Date of UN Event (day-month-year):

Location of UN Event (city, nation):

Names of OSMTH members or delegates present:

Topic(s) discussed, presented or debated:

Was this event worthwhile? - YES - or- NO

- 1) Please briefly list the most important points presented and any information OSMTH should be aware of from this event.
- 2) Are there other NGO's we should work with on this issue? If so please list contact information including: A) Exact name of person or organization B) E-mail address C) Telephone number D) Mailing address.

Please list the name and address of the hotel you used attending this event and rate it for future attendees)

The Brussels Declaration is the core philosophy for the 21st Century Templar. The Brussels Declaration was thoughtfully considered and adopted by the Grand Magistrate

BRUSSELS DECLARATION

13th October 2007

OSMTH – Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem:
Aiding humanity on the pilgrimage through life.

OUR VISION

Today, OSMTH – (Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem) looks for a world in which:

- a constructive dialogue between the great religious faiths, and the individuals and nations that adhere to them, is conducted in an atmosphere of mutual respect, understanding and peace;
- the holy sites of Christianity and the other great faiths are respected, protected and maintained, and pilgrims can travel to them in safety;
- the dedication, generosity and integrity of all those engaged in providing humanitarian aid are recognised and valued, and aid workers carry out their vital work in an ethical manner without fear of discrimination;
- the principles of active charity, courtesy, dedication and honesty, inherent in the highest ideals of a code of chivalry and a personal rule of life, are spread wider and wider in society; and
- the contribution of the Knights Templar, medieval and modern, with regard to agriculture, construction, transportation, crafts, medicine, finance, inter-faith affairs, diplomacy and philanthropy is both well researched, and also widely understood and valued by the public.

OUR COMMITMENT

OSMTH -- (Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem) aspires to be the modern organization the original Knights Templar might have become, if their historical development had not been broken.

Like other orders of military and monastic origins, whose traditions stem from Jerusalem in the Middle Ages, our membership has long ago put aside swords for purely ceremonial use and turned its attention, as a civil society organization, to charitable, cultural, humanitarian and reconciliation endeavors. In our members today, we look for Christians sufficiently confident in their own beliefs to respect and value the beliefs of those of other faiths and of none.

Today's Templars in OSMTH -- (Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem) I seek, by their collective action and individual personal example, to put into practice in the modern world the highest ideals of the code of chivalry and the personal rule of Christian life inspired by the spiritual father of the medieval Order, St Bernard of Clairvaux.

Our modern Order also adheres to the Principles adopted by the General Assembly of the Order of the Temple in Paris in 1841 in that:

- our membership is open to Christians of all denominations and from all social backgrounds;
- we operate as an openly accountable, democratic and non-political organization;
- our members have a duty to promote the causes of peace and human dignity; and
- our work in humanitarian aid is undertaken for the benefit of the diverse strands of all humanity.

OUR ACTIONS

In addition to the local and national activities of each of its constituent Member Grand Priorities, OSMTH -- (Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem) undertakes a range of collective programs around the world.

In choosing and implementing these collective international programs, our modern Order particularly seeks:

- to promote dialogue amongst, and between, the Abrahamic faiths and the other great religions of the world with a view to establishing better understanding and greater tolerance;
- to assist Christian communities around the world, and especially in the Holy Land, whenever their human rights are at risk;
- to build bridges of understanding and support between the Eastern and Western Churches of the Christian faith; and
- as a UN recognized Non-Governmental Organization, to support the United Nations and other international civil society organizations by our active participation in programs of disaster relief, humanitarian aid, peace building and sustainable development, that respect the full range of human diversity.



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